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**7**  
**steps<sup>rt</sup>to**  
**AWESOME**  
**for**  
**bass players**

**with Dan Wilt**



# AWESOME groove

Awesome bass players have learned their craft by playing along with great recordings of various styles. They have moved beyond the “style they grew up with,” and can move from a Coldplay groove to an R & B groove to a Passion or other groove as needed. They practice groove.

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# AWESOME timing

Awesome bass players have learned that playing with a click track, metronome, or some other timing tool is not only good for their musicality and chops – it solidifies the entire band's sound. They know that sloppy, unrehearsed timing creates a weak rhythmic foundation for the music.

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# 3. AWESOME instrument

Awesome bass players have invested in their gear. They have gotten beyond “I like this; it looks cool,” to “this gear is versatile in a worship setting, and enables me to control tone, volume, and placement of monitor sound well.

Their bass is a quality one, its intonation is good up the neck, and it is within the player’s skill level.

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# **AWESOME** **listening skills**



Awesome bass players are not lost in their own world. They are listening hard to the drummer to lock in with the kick drum. They are listening to the worship leader, and watching, to see if a pattern is about to rise and fall. They are not just staring at charts with one dynamic of playing.

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# AWESOME space creators

Awesome bass players are not needing to work all their chops in every song, or even every set. They create a basic, spacious, foundational groove. Then, as the music style welcomes it, they begin to season their playing with more rhythm and additional notes. They understand what overplaying is, and avoid it like the plague.

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# **AWESOME** **arrangers**

Awesome bass players intentionally listen to current music (70s & 80s music was 40+ and 30+ years ago).

They are able to conform their natural arranging style to the sound demanded by current arranging.

They serve the song and sound desired by the worship leader, rather than making everything sound like their natural style.

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# AWESOME servants



Awesome bass players know how to serve the overall sound of the band, laying a confident foundation, but not overplaying and creating a mush of busyness in the low end.

They are watching the worship leader, the drummer, and the left hand of the keyboard player – and play more or less notes based on what others are doing.

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